

STATE OF WISCONSIN      CIRCUIT COURT      MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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DALE W. BRANDT as Personal  
Representative of the Estate  
of GLEN W. BRANDT,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

Case No. 605-147

OWENS-ILLINOIS, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM L. LEA,

October 16, 1985

2:25 o'clock p.m.

REPORTED BY: KAREN M. IORDACHESCU

1  
2 DEPOSITION of WILLIAM L. LEA, a witness in  
3 the above-entitled action, taken at the instance of  
4 the defendant, Owens-Illinois, Inc., under the provisions  
5 of Chapter 804 of the Wisconsin Statutes, pursuant to  
6 notice, before KAREN M. IORDACHESCU, a Notary Public  
7 in and for the State of Wisconsin, at the home of the  
8 witness, 5222 Hammersley Road, in the City of Madison,  
9 County of Dane, and State of Wisconsin, on the 16th  
10 day of October, 1985, commencing at 2:25 o'clock p.m.

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12  
13 A P P E A R A N C E S

14 MICHAEL J. GONRING,  
15 QUARLES & BRADY, Attorneys at Law,  
16 780 North Water Street, Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, appearing on behalf of  
the plaintiff;

17 ROBERT H. RILEY,  
18 SCHIFF, HARDIN & WAITE, Attorneys  
19 at Law, 7200 Sears Tower, Chicago,  
Illinois, appearing on behalf of  
defendant Owens-Illinois, Inc.;

20 THOMAS N. HARRINGTON,  
21 COOK & FRANKE, S.C., Attorneys  
22 at Law, 660 East Mason Street,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, appearing  
23 on behalf of defendant  
24 LAQ Jensen-Souders Associates, Inc.;

25

1  
2 APPEARANCES: (Continued)

3 THOMAS A. FESSLER,  
4 DAVIS & KUELTHAU, S.C., Attorneys  
5 at Law, 250 E. Wisconsin Avenue,  
6 Suite 800, First Savings Plaza,  
7 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, appearing  
8 on behalf of third-party defendant  
9 GAF;

10 RANDY S. PARLEE,  
11 PETERSON, JOHNSON & MURRAY, Attorneys  
12 at Law, 733 North Van Buren Street,  
13 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, appearing on  
14 behalf of defendant Bell Asbestos,  
15 Asbestos Corp., Ltd.  
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I N D E X

Examination By:

Page:

Attorney Riley

5/91/95

Attorney Harrington

57/90/96

Attorney Gonring

66/94

\* \* \* \* \*

E X H I B I T S

(There were no exhibits marked  
for identification)

1  
2 WILLIAM L. LEA,  
3 having been first duly sworn on oath  
4 was examined and testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. RILEY:

7 MR. HARRINGTON: Before we  
8 start, let me interpose an objection to  
9 this deposition on the grounds that the  
10 time for discovery has expired in this  
11 case. Go ahead.

12 Q Would you state your full name, for the record,

13 Mr. Lea?

14 A William L. Lea.

15 MR. RILEY: Let the record reflect  
16 that this is the deposition of William Lea,  
17 taken pursuant to notice, and scheduled  
18 pursuant to agreement with Counsel for the  
19 plaintiff.

20 I won't represent that Mr. Harrington  
21 was a party to that.

22 Q Mr. Lea, I'm going to be asking you some questions, and  
23 this court reporter is going to take down everything  
24 that is said in the room. It is therefore important  
25 that we not talk at the same time; that you let me

1 finish, me or any other lawyer who would ask any  
2 questions, to finish the question before you start  
3 your answer. That way, the question will be  
4 complete and the answer will be complete; also, the  
5 court reporter's job much will be much easier.

6 It is also important that you use words when  
7 answering the questions, because a shrug of the  
8 shoulder or gesture or nod of the head, might  
9 communicate to me, but the court reporter has a  
10 tough time taking those things down, so if you can  
11 try to remember that. We can't converse like a  
12 living room conversation, but instead, that the  
13 court reporter is here, I think that will help us,  
14 tremendously.

15 If at any time you don't understand one of my  
16 questions, I hope you will let me know; I will be  
17 happy to try to rephrase it and make it clear.

18 If at any time you would like to stop and take  
19 a break, stretch your legs, just signal and we'll be  
20 happy to accommodate you.

21 Do you have any problem with proceeding the way  
22 I just described?

23 A No problem.

24 Q Okay, thanks.

25 Could you state your present address, please?

1 A 5222 Hammersley Road, Madison, Wisconsin.

2 Q An we are actually at that address right now, aren't  
3 we?

4 A Right.

5 Q We're in your home, and I apologize for any  
6 inconvenience that that causes and appreciate your  
7 courtesy in allowing us to come here.

8 It's my understanding, it is difficult for you  
9 to travel away from your home, in light of your  
10 wife's condition of health, is that correct, sir?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And we're here at your invitation, in light of that  
13 problem with traveling to some other location?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Try to keep your voice up; it will help the court  
16 reporter.

17 Could you give me your date of birth, please,  
18 Mr. Lea?

19 A May 19, 1909.

20 Q You are currently retired, sir?

21 A Right.

22 Q Could you briefly describe your educational  
23 background, please?

24 A My education is in the field of chemistry.

25 I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in

1 the end of 1928; started the first semester of 1929.

2 I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 1933;  
3 with a Doctor's Degree in 1940.

4 Q You say a doctor's degree in 1940; in what field?

5 A In Chemistry.

6 Q Were you in school continuously from 1929 to 1940,  
7 or did you --

8 A No, it was continuously.

9 Q Your Ph.D. was from the University of Wisconsin?

10 A Right.

11 Q After receiving your Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1940,  
12 what did you do?

13 A I was employed by the Wisconsin State Board of  
14 Health, in the Occupational Health Division.

15 Q Now after receiving your Ph.D., did you, at any time,  
16 do any further educational work, in the form of  
17 seminars or studies or courses, anything like that?

18 A What period of time was this?

19 Q At any time after 1940, did you have any further  
20 education?

21 A Well, we attended short courses in the field of  
22 occupational health, or public health service;  
23 U. S. Public Health Service.

24 Q Did the U. S. Public Health Service, from time to  
25 time, sponsor seminars for individuals working in



1 the industrial hygiene field?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Where were those held?

4 A Well, either in Washington, D. C., at their  
5 facilities there, or at the Taft Engineering Center,  
6 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

7 Q Can you tell us approximately how many times you  
8 attended such programs over the years?

9 A Probably about once a year.

10 Q Generally, what was the subject matter of those  
11 kinds of programs?

12 A On the planning and conduct of studies to determine  
13 the atmospheric concentration of chemical compounds,  
14 which were present in the air; either the dust,  
15 fume, vapor or gas.

16 MR. HARRINGTON: May I hear the  
17 answer back, please.

18 (Last answer read back by reporter)

19 Q Have you ever been a member of any professional  
20 organizations, or honorary organizations?

21 A Well, I was a member of the American Chemical  
22 Society, and let's see, the American Conference of  
23 Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

24 Q When did you join the American Conference of  
25 Governmental Industrial Hygienists?

1 A 1940.

2 Q Are you still a member, today?

3 A No.

4 Q When did you stop your membership?

5 A Well, possibly 1966 or 1967, when I changed my  
6 activity from the State Board of Health, to the  
7 field of radiation control.

8 Q And is that why you stopped your affiliation with  
9 the American Conference of Governmental Industrial  
10 Hygienists?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Is the shorthand form for that, ACGIH?

13 A Yes.

14 Q If I refer to ACGIH, you will know what I'm talking  
15 about?

16 A Right.

17 Q What did the ACGIH do, what type of activities did  
18 it sponsor while you were a member?

19 A Well, these seminars, that were mentioned  
20 previously, plus they had an annual meeting, which  
21 was in effect, a seminar which is was attended by  
22 all of the members.

23 Q Did you attend annual meetings of the ACGIH?

24 A Right.

25 Q Now you said seminars such as you described earlier;

1 you described some of the seminars, and you made  
2 reference to them being sponsored by the U. S.  
3 Public Health Service.

4 Did the ACGIH co-sponsor seminars with them, or  
5 have the same kinds of seminars, or what was the  
6 relationship?

7 A The ACGIH was formed or sponsored by the  
8 U. S. Public Health Service.

9 Q After the ACGIH was formed, did it actually sponsor  
10 seminars of its own?

11 A Oh, yes.

12 Q Did you attend those, from time to time?

13 A Yes, right.

14 Q And what were the subject matters of those seminars?

15 A Well, that's the one we said before where -- the  
16 planning and conduct of implant studies to determine  
17 atmospheric concentrations of harmful air  
18 contaminants.

19 Q Now a moment ago, you indicated that in 1940, you  
20 started working with the Wisconsin State Board of  
21 Health, correct?

22 A Right.

23 Q Was there a particular unit of the State Board of  
24 Health that you worked with?

25 A Industrial Hygiene Unit.

1 Q Who else was employed by the Industrial Hygiene Unit  
2 when you joined?

3 A Well, the director was Dr. Paul A. Brehm, B-r-e-h-m,  
4 and a William Z. Fluck.

5 He had been with the unit for three years prior  
6 to that, and I think the unit was formed in the  
7 Wisconsin State Board of Health, in 1937.

8 Q Did you have occasion to work with Mr. Fluck, over  
9 the years?

10 A Oh, yes.

11 Q Did you find him to be a competent and effective  
12 industrial hygienist?

13 A Oh, yes.

14 Q Was there anyone else employed by the Industrial  
15 Hygiene Unit, at the time you joined?

16 A Office personnel.

17 Q What was your job, when you joined the Industrial  
18 Hygiene Unit in 1940?

19 A As Industrial Hygiene Engineer.

20 Q How long did you hold that position?

21 A Till 1966.

22 Q At any time during the period from 1940 to 1966, did  
23 you assume the position of Director of the  
24 Industrial Hygiene Unit?

25 A In about 1948 or 9; near the end of '48, or early,

1 first month or two of '49.

2 Q Who did you succeed?

3 A Paul Brehm.

4 Q And how long did you hold the position of Director?

5 A Till 1966.

6 In 1961, the State Board of Health, started a  
7 section on Radiation Control, which I also headed,  
8 and that by 1966, my activities were mainly  
9 concerned with the Radiation Protection Section, so  
10 that's when I devoted all my time to Radiation  
11 Protection.

12 Q So you moved into Radiation Protection, exclusively,  
13 starting in 1966?

14 A Right.

15 Q Now were you still employed by the State Board of  
16 Health, and just moved to a different unit, or was  
17 this entirely different employment, when working in  
18 Radiation Control?

19 A No; still with the State Board of Health.

20 Q How long did you stay in Radiation Protection with  
21 the State Board of Health?

22 A Until I retired in 1974.

23 Q Since you retired, have you held any consulting  
24 positions, or any employment, of any kind, in the  
25 industrial hygiene field?

1 A No, not to the extent that I would say it was an  
2 occupation.

3 It would be, I was called upon as a consultant,  
4 a couple of times, for the reason that in the late  
5 '60s, early '70s, a lot of the work in industrial  
6 hygiene or occupational health, whichever term you  
7 would like to use, was under the guidance of OSHA,  
8 Occupational Safety and Health Agency, and under  
9 that program, neither OSHA, nor the State Board of  
10 Health, as an agency, acted as consultants to the  
11 industry, so I did have a couple of requests for  
12 consultation by Wisconsin industry, in that time  
13 interval, which was after I retired.

14 Q At any time during your life, have you ever done any  
15 teaching?

16 A I went with the University of Wisconsin in 1948, for  
17 about a year and a fraction, teaching Chemistry in  
18 the School of Engineering.

19 Q Have you ever done any work on any committees of the  
20 ACGIH, or been a member of any committees?

21 A No.

22 Q Can you describe for me, generally, what the  
23 Industrial Hygiene Unit of the Wisconsin State Board  
24 of Health did, during the period from 1940 to 1966,  
25 when you were working there?

1 A Well, at the request of management and industry, we  
2 traveled to the industrial plant and conducted  
3 studies to determine the atmospheric concentration,  
4 in the working environment, of potentially harmful  
5 chemical compounds.

6 Q What was the purpose of your studies?

7 A This was to improve the, or safeguard employee  
8 health, from overexposure to harmful air  
9 contaminants, and to report to management, recommend  
10 corrective measures, whenever was deemed necessary  
11 or advisable.

12 Q Now when you folks at the Industrial Hygiene Unit  
13 went out and did a study, did you have the force of  
14 law behind you; was this a regulatory agency?

15 A No, we weren't a regulatory agency, but we used the  
16 limiting concentrations of air, which were published  
17 in one of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission's  
18 codes.

19 Q What were those limiting concentrations called?

20 A Maximum allowable concentrations.

21 Q Now how did you use maximum allowable concentrations  
22 to, as you described it, prevent overexposures to  
23 possible contaminants?

24 A Well, if the average or weighted atmospheric  
25 concentrations of a given air contaminant, was below

1 the listed maximum allowable concentration in the  
2 Industrial Commission's code, it was, as far as the  
3 health of the employees working in that environment  
4 was concerned, was deemed to be safe.

5 Q Now you mentioned that you might get requests from  
6 management or plants to come out and do studies.

7 Was there any other way that it would be  
8 determined that a study would be made at a  
9 particular location?

10 A Well, sometimes the representative of the labor  
11 union would request a study.

12 Q Any other way that it would be determined to make a  
13 study?

14 A Well, the Industrial Commission might request it,  
15 but that was a rare event.

16 The reports which we sent, after making these  
17 studies, which we sent to plant management, were  
18 considered confidential reports.

19 The original copy was retained in the State  
20 Board of Health files, for that plant. The Labor  
21 Department did not receive copies of the --

22 Q Now could you describe the step by step process,  
23 whereby a study as you've described it, is done, or  
24 was done by you and others working with or for you  
25 at the Industrial Hygiene Unit?



1 A Well, of course, the first step was to get the  
2 request to make the study from someone who was  
3 authorized to make it. We would then take the  
4 proper type of air sampling equipment with us, in  
5 the car; go to the plant. Usually, we would have  
6 some representative of the plant management take us  
7 out to the work area, so we could see the processes  
8 that was being conducted. We then would determine  
9 where we would take our air samplings, and how many  
10 we would take, and how long a time period they would  
11 cover.

12 Q Once you took the sampling, what did you do with it?

13 A It went back to the laboratory, and things that  
14 would -- the concentration of the air pollutant was  
15 determined by chemical analysis, if the air  
16 contaminant was -- lent itself to; in other words,  
17 dust were not analyzed by us, as to their chemical  
18 identity, but this was done in using a low power  
19 microscopic technique.

20 Q Once you got information about the concentration of  
21 various elements in the sample, then what did you do  
22 with that information?

23 A Well, it was written up in a report and typed up,  
24 and a copy of the report was sent to plant  
25 management, or if it happened to be a request from

1 the Union, a copy would be sent to them.

2 Q You mentioned earlier, you have -- may have already  
3 gone over this; I don't mean to repeat, but would  
4 you use the maximum allowable concentration, in  
5 anyway, in making judgments about the concentrations  
6 you found in the samples?

7 A Right, earlier, in our off the record conversation,  
8 we were talking about highway speed limits; this is  
9 sort of the way maximum allowable concentrations  
10 were used in establishing safe limits.

11 Most maximum allowable concentrations were  
12 deemed to be adequate protection for employees  
13 exposed eight hours a day, five days a week,  
14 continuously, without having any ill effects.

15 Q Now you mentioned eight hours a day.

16 Did time have something to do with these  
17 maximum allowable concentrations?

18 A Right, since a maximum allowable concentration is  
19 based on this concentration being present, or an  
20 employee being exposed to this for eight hours, day  
21 after day, continuously; if either the concentration  
22 was less than the maximum allowable concentration,  
23 or the time of exposure was less, that would alter  
24 the interpretation, because it's a time  
25 concentration type of figure you're dealing with

1           there.

2           Q    So we're clear, in order to determine if an exposure  
3           is below or above the maximum allowable  
4           concentration did you take into account the  
5           concentration of this element in the atmosphere, and  
6           the amount of time that an individual might be  
7           exposed to that concentration?

8           A    That's right.

9           Q    And if the amount -- if the concentration were to  
10          differ, at various places in the same plant, and the  
11          amount of time spent at those locations by a worker  
12          also were different, did that equation have to be  
13          worked out, to average those things?

14          A    Right.

15          Q    So in order to determine whether exposures in a  
16          plant were above or below the maximum allowable  
17          concentrations, did you look at just one location,  
18          and determine the time, or did you have to look at  
19          various locations, and consider the various amounts  
20          of time spent at each?

21          A    Look at various ones, and related it to the time  
22          spent in that area.

23               For instance, there were a lot of reports,  
24          besides specific location where an employee worked.  
25          We also included a number, GA, which meant, general

1 atmosphere; in other words, no one specifically  
2 occupied that spot all the time, but somebody could  
3 occupy it, just walking through, even if they didn't  
4 work there, so general atmospheres were also  
5 included in this. Maybe a person ate lunch in  
6 this atmosphere; includes the general atmosphere.

7 You consider the general atmosphere  
8 concentration, in relation to the time it was  
9 occupied by an employee.

10 Q Where did these maximum allowable concentrations  
11 come from; who put them out?

12 A They were promulgated by the ACGIH.

13 Q Did the maximum allowable concentrations represent a  
14 consensus view of the ACGIH, on what the safe level  
15 of exposure was?

16 A Right.

17 There was -- once this was, maximum allowable  
18 concentration was established, it was not isolated  
19 from change. If anyone in this field had any  
20 evidence to support the contention that a MAC was  
21 set too low, they could submit this evidence to a  
22 committee of the ACGIH, and if favorably considered,  
23 the MAC would be adjusted to show the consideration  
24 of this evidence.

25 Q Now throughout the time period that you were with

1 the Industrial Hygiene Unit, did you actually go out  
2 and do studies yourself?

3 A Sure.

4 Q Including the time period when you were the  
5 Director?

6 A Right.

7 Q In addition, I assume as Director, you had some  
8 administrative duties?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Did your administrative duties include the review of  
11 studies done by others, who were working under you,  
12 in the Industrial Hygiene Unit?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Just to put it in perspective, when you started, how  
15 many people were in the Industrial Hygiene Unit of  
16 the State Board of Health for Wisconsin?

17 A Well, there were two engineers that made studies in  
18 the plants, like we have been describing; there were  
19 two Industrial Nurses, and there were two office  
20 personnel.

21 Q Over time, did the staff grow?

22 A Yes, sir, up until the commission, in the late '60s  
23 or early '70s, when much of the work in the  
24 industrial health field, was shifted to the  
25 Occupational and Safety Health Agency.

1 Q Would it be fair to say, that you started in the  
2 field of Industrial Hygiene at approximately the  
3 time that that field was being born, in the State of  
4 Wisconsin?

5 A Well, as I mentioned, it started in about the middle  
6 of 1937.

7 Q Now when you were beginning your work at the  
8 Industrial Hygiene Unit, you mentioned you did  
9 studies of, I believe, dust, gases, vapors and  
10 fumes, is that right?

11 A Right.

12 Q Focusing in on dust, for a minute, one of those  
13 four, what was the primary source of concern, from  
14 the industrial hygiene standpoint, at that time?

15 A Well, undoubtedly, it was silica, because Wisconsin  
16 has a number of silicon-handling industries that,  
17 such as foundries, and in fact, we have some silica  
18 mines that are over on the bluffs, overlooking the  
19 Mississippi River.

20 Q And what was the health concern associated with  
21 silica?

22 A Well, it was a breathing impairment, which was  
23 called silicosis.

24 Q About how much of your time, say, in the 1940's and  
25 early 1950's, was spent on silica-related studies or

1 analysis?

2 A My individual time, or of the Industrial Health  
3 Unit?

4 Q Of the Unit.

5 A Unit; oh, I would say probably about 10 percent.

6 Q Now did your duties in the Industrial Hygiene Unit,  
7 include keeping current with the literature in the  
8 field?

9 A Oh, yes.

10 Q And was there literature in the field, on silica, as  
11 an industrial hygiene concern?

12 A There was -- the main publication was one called  
13 Industrial Hygiene Toxicology, which was, I think, a  
14 monthly journal.

15 Q Did you consider that authoritative?

16 A Oh, yeah.

17 Q How about the United States Public Health bulletins?

18 A Right.

19 Q Was that among the literature you kept current with?

20 A Right.

21 Q Did the Public Health bulletins and the Journal of  
22 Industrial Hygiene Toxicology, were those  
23 publications that came to the Industrial Hygiene  
24 Unit?

25 A Right.

1 Q Those were reviewed by you and others in the Unit?

2 A Right.

3 Q We've talked a little about silica.

4 Can you tell me, in the dust category in the  
5 1940's, early '50s, how was asbestos, as a dust  
6 viewed, from the industrial hygiene standpoint?

7 MR. HARRINGTON: Are you asking  
8 him, just so it's clear, from his  
9 standpoint, or from the entire profession?

10 MR. RILEY: From his view of it,  
11 but obviously, in his professional capacity,  
12 as an industrial hygienist, as opposed to  
13 his non-professional capacity.

14 A Well, it was viewed as being somewhat similar in its  
15 effect on the lung, as silica, in that it was a lung  
16 impairment type of injury.

17 Q I guess what I want to get at is, relatively  
18 speaking, silica as opposed to asbestos, how were  
19 they viewed, relative to one another, in terms of  
20 how much focus there was on it, in the industrial  
21 hygiene field; was there more focus on silica, or  
22 more focus on asbestos?

23 A More on silica.

24 Q Was there an MAC, what you called the safe level of  
25 exposure, that was generally accepted for asbestos



1 while you were in the industrial hygiene field?

2 A Yes, there was.

3 Q Can you tell me, over the entire time you were with  
4 the State Board of Health as an industrial  
5 hygienist, how much of your time, what percentage of  
6 your time did you spend working on anything that  
7 related to asbestos?

8 A Probably a small fraction of one percent.

9 Q So 99 plus percent of your time, was spent on other  
10 things, other than asbestos?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q During the entire period of time that you were with  
13 the Industrial Hygiene Unit, how many locations did  
14 the Unit study, with respect to asbestos in the  
15 atmosphere?

16 A Just two, that I can remember.

17 Q Where were they?

18 A One was in Algoma, and the other was in Two Rivers.

19 Q And how many of these studies would the Industrial  
20 Hygiene Unit, for all substances, not just dust, but  
21 for dust, fumes, vapors or gases; how many studies  
22 would the Industrial Hygiene Unit do in a given  
23 year?

24 I know I can't ask for an exact number, but  
25 generally speaking?

1 A Well, somewhere between, maybe 350 and 500.

2 By giving you 350, I think we were at least  
3 doing a study every day of the year, of some kind.

4 Q During the period of time that you were employed by  
5 the Industrial Hygiene Unit, were you aware of any  
6 reports of anybody in Wisconsin contracting an  
7 asbestos-related disease?

8 A No.

9 We used to get, each month, a report of all the  
10 occupational illnesses that were compiled by the  
11 Industrial Commission, the Labor Department  
12 Statistical Division. They would give the name of  
13 the site, name of the plant, name of the employee  
14 who had filed a claim and the causative agent, or  
15 alleged causative agent.

16 Q In all those reports, did you see any reports of  
17 asbestos being a causative agent of industrial  
18 disease in Wisconsin?

19 A No, not that I can recall.

20 Q Now you mentioned Algoma.

21 What kind of a plant did you work at there?

22 A Was a plant that fabricated fireproof enclosures for  
23 doorways and so forth.

24 Q Now it's my understanding, that that plant was owned  
25 by a couple of different companies, over time, and I

1 don't want there to be any confusion what name I use  
2 for the plant, so if I just call that the Algoma  
3 plant, will you understand what I'm referring to?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now what kind of studies were done at the Algoma  
6 plant by the Industrial Hygiene Unit?

7 A Well, we made studies to determine atmospheric  
8 concentration of dust connected with some of their  
9 fabrication of these fireproof doors, or fire  
10 retardant doors.

11 Q At whose request was this work done?

12 A Plant management, I think; probably the plant  
13 Medical Department, or the plant superintendent; I  
14 don't know which it would be.

15 Q Did you actually participate in some of that study  
16 work that was done there?

17 A Yes, but I think most of it was done just prior to  
18 my coming to the State Board of Health.

19 Q Now before you actually did any work in connection  
20 with the Algoma plant, did you review the prior  
21 studies that were done by the Industrial Hygiene  
22 Unit, to see the results of those studies?

23 A Oh, sure; I always looked at the file of previous  
24 work done, yes.

25 Q And the file would include the studies that were

1 actually performed and written up, is that correct?

2 A Right.

3 Q Would also include correspondence that related to  
4 those studies?

5 A Right.

6 Q Mr. Lea, I'm going to show you some documents now;  
7 these documents have been previously marked at  
8 another deposition.

9 I'll describe them, for the record, so that we  
10 know what we're talking about.

11 MR. RILEY: I assume other Counsel  
12 already have copies of these documents.

13 That's true, isn't it?

14 MR. GONRING: That depends on what  
15 you're going to talk about.

16 MR. RILEY: I'm talking about  
17 general exhibits.

18 MR. GONRING: I have those.

19 Q The first one is marked as Detjen Exhibit 1 for  
20 identification; it's a copy of a March 3, 1948  
21 letter from William Z. Fluck, to Mr. G. R. Mercer,  
22 Factory Superintendent, Algoma Plywood and Veneer,  
23 attached to that is a three-page survey report,  
24 bearing the date, February 13, 1948.

25 The next is Detjen Exhibit 8 for

1 identification; it's a copy of an August 18, 1948  
2 letter from Paul A. Brehm, to Mr. G. R. Mercer;  
3 attached to that is a two-page survey report,  
4 bearing the date July 29, 1948.

5 The next is Detjen Exhibit 14 for  
6 identification; it is a two-page document, which  
7 purports to be a dust survey report, bearing the  
8 date November 12, 1948.

9 Next is Detjen Exhibit 15 for identification;  
10 it's a two-page document, which purports to be a  
11 dust survey report, bearing the date  
12 December 1, 1948.

13 Next is Detjen Exhibit 18 for identification;  
14 purports to be a copy of an August 10, 1949 letter  
15 from William Z. Fluck, to Mr. G. R. Mercer; attached  
16 to it is a one-page document, which is a dust survey  
17 report, bearing the date August 2, 1949.

18 D-e-t-j-e-n.

19 A Where does that name come from?

20 D-e-t-j-i-n.

21 Q That is the last name of a woman whose full name is  
22 Gertrude Brice Detjen, who has testified in this  
23 case, and she was the plant nurse, at the time these  
24 studies were done. These were marked as Exhibits to  
25 her deposition

1 A That is the person's name?

2 Q That is the person, correct.

3 I will represent to you, Mr. Lea, that these  
4 are documents which were produced from the files of  
5 the Algoma plant. I don't know whether they are  
6 exhaustive of all reports that may have been done by  
7 the Wisconsin State Board of Health, Industrial  
8 Hygiene Unit prior to the time that your work at the  
9 Algoma plant took place. They are all the ones that  
10 were produced in connection with this case.

11 I guess my question for you is, are those  
12 reports, at least some, are those reports which you  
13 did review in connection with your work at the  
14 Algoma plant?

15 (Witness examines document)

16 A Right.

17 Q I'd like you to look at Detjen Exhibit 16, please;  
18 that's a copy of a February 23, 1949 letter from  
19 D. H. Byers, Scientist, Laboratory Section, Division  
20 of Industrial Hygiene of the United States Public  
21 Health Service, to Mr. William Z. Fluck?

22 A I don't believe I have 16.

23 Q It's right here.

24 I haven't handed that one over to you.

25 My question for you is, whether that piece of

1 correspondence that relates also to the Algoma  
2 plant, was among the materials that you reviewed in  
3 connection with your work at the Algoma plant?

4 (Witness examines document)

5 A Yes.

6 Q I would like you to now look at Detjen Exhibit 22,  
7 the first page of which is a copy of a  
8 September 28, 1951 letter from William L. Lea, to  
9 Mr. G. R. Mercer; attached to it is a two-page dust  
10 survey report, bearing the date September 5, 1951.

11 (Witness examines document)

12 Q Does your signature appear on the first page of  
13 Exhibit, Detjen Exhibit 22?

14 A Yes, it does.

15 Q And is that first page a true and correct copy of  
16 the letter that you sent to Mr. G. R. Mercer,  
17 Superintendent of the Algoma Plywood and Veneer  
18 Company, on or about September 28, 1951?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And are the second and third pages of that document,  
21 copies of the report that you transmitted with your  
22 letter?

23 A Yes, I believe so.

24 Q On the last page of the Exhibit, the signature is of  
25 Mr. Walter H. Poppa, Jr., and Mr. Edward J. Otterson.

1           Were those employees in the Industrial  
2           Hygiene Unit, under you, as Director?

3           A     Yes, they were.

4           Q     And did you review the report, prior to transmitting  
5           it to Mr. Mercer?

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     And did you basically review it for purposes of  
8           accuracy and then endorse it when you sent it off to  
9           Mr. Mercer?

10          A     That's correct.

11          Q     Now could you explain to us, what the purpose was in  
12          putting together a report like this and transmitting  
13          it to Mr. Mercer at the Algoma plant?

14          A     Well, the purpose of the study is to determine the  
15          concentration of dust at various locations in the  
16          plant, under normal operating conditions.

17                Of course, the purpose for writing the report  
18          and sending it to the plant superintendent, is to  
19          acquaint him with facts that -- what the conditions  
20          are, in relation to what is considered to be  
21          acceptable working conditions for that particular  
22          dust.

23          Q     Now on the second page of this Exhibit, the first  
24          page of the survey report itself, it states, Kaylo  
25          dust counts, and then it describes certain sample



1 locations, and then under the heading, million  
2 particles per cubic foot of air, there are numbers.

3 Now what are those numbers reporting?

4 A Number of particles of dust originating from the  
5 material, per kilo, found in the air; for instance,  
6 the first number is drum sander, feed end; we found  
7 a concentration of this dust of 3.3 million  
8 particles per cubic foot of air.

9 Q Now is that total dust, or is that a particular kind  
10 of sub-category of air reported?

11 A That's total dust.

12 Q Now what was in the air as part of the dust; what  
13 was the composition of the dust at the Algoma plant?

14 A Well, we collected a large sample of the air-borne  
15 dust in that plant, and sent it to the U. S. Public  
16 Health Service for analysis. I think you got a copy  
17 of it here, from D. H. Byers' report of the analysis.

18 Q You're referring to Exhibit 16?

19 A Right.

20 They analyzed the sample for us, since we did  
21 not have equipment that could be used to determine  
22 the asbestos content, specifically, but they do,  
23 and they show a concentration of 13 percent free  
24 silica, and the notable result they have there  
25 is, more than 5 percent and probably less than 12

1 percent of asbestos in this sample.

2 Q And then that accounts for approximately 25 percent  
3 of the dust.

4 What was your understanding of the rest of the  
5 dust; the other 75 percent was comprised of what?

6 A I suppose that would be the binding material in the  
7 board.

8 Q Including wood?

9 A Right.

10 Q Now was there, at the time of this study, a  
11 recognized safe limit, maximum allowable  
12 concentration for asbestos?

13 A Yes, there was.

14 Q What was that maximum allowable concentration?

15 A 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

16 Q Was there a maximum allowable concentration for  
17 silica, as well?

18 A There was.

19 Q What was that?

20 A The same value; five million particles per cubic  
21 foot of air.

22 Q Let's focus on the asbestos maximum allowable  
23 concentration.

24 Was that a standard to be applied to all the  
25 dust in the air that contains some portion of

1 asbestos, or just the asbestos that was in the air?

2 A Just the asbestos.

3 Q So it was a pure asbestos standard?

4 A Right.

5 Q Now as I understand your testimony, this Kaylo dust  
6 was not pure asbestos; it was 5 to 12 percent  
7 asbestos, is that correct?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Your answer -- I'm sorry, your answer to that was?

10 A What was the question?

11 Q The question was, how much of the dust in the air  
12 the Algoma plant, was asbestos, based on your  
13 understanding of --

14 A Well, based on this study, that was analyzed by  
15 United States Public Health Service, the asbestos  
16 content was given as more than 5 percent and  
17 probably less than 12 percent.

18 Q Now how did you go about comparing then, the Algoma  
19 dust counts with the maximum allowable  
20 concentrations, since only a relatively small  
21 portion of the dust at the Algoma plant was  
22 asbestos?

23 A All right.

24 To make it more understandable, let's assume  
25 that we have asbestos mixed with some relatively

1 innocuous material, like paper fibers, cellulous  
2 fiber and that the amount of asbestos is, well for  
3 the purposes of illustration, let's say it was 50  
4 percent. Well, the dust generated from that would  
5 then have an allowable concentration double that for  
6 asbestos, alone, because half of the particles  
7 counted, are other than asbestos, so your counted  
8 sample found 20 million particles per cubic foot, by  
9 chemical analysis; you mix the dust, you knew half  
10 was asbestos, you knew half of the particles you  
11 counted were asbestos, so then you arrive at, must  
12 be about 10 million particles per cubic foot, when  
13 you have a total of 20 million particles per cubic  
14 foot of mixed dust.

15 Q So if you had a mixed dust, did you have to come up  
16 with new maximum allowable concentrations for that  
17 unique mixed dust?

18 A Yeah.

19 What was done, you take the maximum allowable  
20 concentration for each component of the dust, put it  
21 in a mathematical expression or equation, you would  
22 calculate the MAC for that particular mixture.

23 Q So with the example you gave, if you had something  
24 that was 50 percent asbestos, and 50 percent some  
25 innocuous substance, like paper fiber, the MAC for

1 that would be roughly 10 million particles per cubic  
2 foot of air, correct?

3 A Right.

4 Q And as the percentage of asbestos in that total dust  
5 went down, the maximum allowable concentration would  
6 go up?

7 A Till you finally reached the MAC for the paper fiber  
8 in the example I gave.

9 Q For just general nuisance dust, was there a maximum  
10 allowable concentration for that?

11 A Yes, there was.

12 Q What was that?

13 A 50 million particles per cubic foot of air.

14 Q The assumption is, 50 million particles is so much,  
15 you should never have 50 million particles of  
16 anything in the air?

17 A Right.

18 Q Now in coming up with a maximum allowable  
19 concentration for this Algoma dust, using the  
20 process you described, what did you come up with,  
21 as a maximum allowable concentration?

22 A Around 43 million particles per cubic foot of air.

23 Q Based solely on the asbestos percentage in it,  
24 correct?

25 A Right.

1 Q Now this dust also had silica in it, as I  
2 understand?

3 A Right.

4 Q And then that had an impact on what the maximum  
5 allowable concentration would be for that particular  
6 total dust at Algoma?

7 A Right.

8 Q So taking into account both the asbestos and the  
9 silica in the air, what maximum allowable  
10 concentration did you come up with for the Algoma  
11 dust?

12 A Well, that's the one that -- the figure I gave you,  
13 to your previous question; was around 40 million  
14 particles per cubic foot of air.

15 Q Is that for silica, alone, or silica and asbestos,  
16 total?

17 A That's for the mixture, the mixed dust.

18 Q Now in Exhibit 22, if you will look at Exhibit 22,  
19 underneath the dust counts, there is a reference to  
20 the dust study made on August 2, 1949, and an  
21 analysis of the composition of the Algoma dust, and  
22 that suggests a maximum allowable concentration for  
23 Kaylo dust was probably between 5 to 20 million  
24 particles per cubic foot of air.

25 Now is that a reference to an aggressive

1 maximum allowable concentration, or is that a  
2 conservative maximum allowable concentration, in  
3 light of what you just said?

4 A Well, have to view that as being a conservative one.

5 Say, if you took the calculated value, would be  
6 close to 40 million particles per cubic foot, but  
7 this particular mix of dust, to be conservative, we  
8 say, we used a figure of 20 million particles, is  
9 the limit of concentration.

10 Q Now when you reviewed this report before sending it  
11 to Mr. Mercer, did you examine those dust counts  
12 that were actually found at the plant; the numbers  
13 that are listed there?

14 A Right.

15 Q And what did you conclude about the Algoma dust  
16 conditions, with respect to the maximum allowable  
17 concentration?

18 Did you find that it was above the maximum  
19 allowable concentration, or below?

20 A Below.

21 Q And what did these dust counts of below the maximum  
22 allowable concentration indicate to you about the  
23 safety of the workers at the Algoma plant?

24 A Well, we viewed it as indicating conditions were  
25 safe, for prolonged exposure, since they were well

1 below the accepted.

2 Q And you mentioned the concept of prolonged exposure.

3 Does the time weighted average come into play,  
4 in any dust study, including the Algoma dust study?

5 A Oh, sure.

6 Q So in analyzing the conditions, you would look at  
7 all of the locations and consider, generally, the  
8 time spent at those locations, in addition to just  
9 the counts?

10 A Right.

11 Q And that would factor into your conclusion that the  
12 level of dust there was safe, in the plant?

13 A Yes.

14 Q One thing happens to stick in my mind.

15 You said that a maximum allowable concentration  
16 is kind of like a speed limit, in terms of being a  
17 recognized safe level, but am I correct that a  
18 maximum allowable concentration has this time  
19 weighted average aspect in it, whereas speed limit  
20 doesn't have that, correct?

21 A Right.

22 Q That is, if you are going 65 miles an hour, for even  
23 just one minute, and the policeman is there, then  
24 you would be breaking the law, correct?

25 A Right.



1 Q But if you had a dust exposure for just one  
2 minute, over one hour a day, that was above the  
3 maximum allowable concentration, but the rest of the  
4 day below, does that mean you are above the, or  
5 violating the maximum allowable concentration?

6 A No, because you see, you consider the total exposure  
7 time.

8 Q Okay, would you please look at Detjen Exhibit 23,  
9 please.

10 It is a copy of a letter from Gordon R. Mercer,  
11 to The State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Board of  
12 Health, Industrial Hygiene Division; Attention:  
13 Mr. William Lea, Ph.D., Director.

14 It is right here, sir.

15 (Witness examines document)

16 Q Is that a true and correct copy of a letter that you  
17 received from Mr. Mercer on or about  
18 October 31, 1951?

19 A I believe so.

20 Q That letter indicates that the dust -- well, let me  
21 back up a second.

22 Mr. Mercer thanks you for the report submitted  
23 with your letter of September 28, 1951; we can agree  
24 that's Exhibit 22, can't we?

25 A Right.

1 Q And with reference to that report, Mr. Mercer says,  
2 "The dust collected on the Mattison saw as covered  
3 by sample #5 is being revised so that the dust count  
4 at this location will be lowered considerably."

5 "When we are ready for another test we will let  
6 you know."

7 A I think what he meant there, not collected, but he  
8 meant, collector.

9 Q Now we haven't had produced for us, any study in  
10 1951 or even in '52, that relates to the Algoma  
11 plant, that would tell us what the results of a  
12 follow-up study were, or even if one took place.

13 Do you know whether or not, as a result of this  
14 letter, another study was done shortly after the  
15 date of the letter?

16 A I'm assuming one was done, because his last sentence  
17 on here is, "When we are ready for another test we  
18 will let you know."

19 MR. RILEY: Could you read that  
20 answer back.

21 (Last answer read back by reporter)

22 Q Do you have a recollection of what that study might  
23 have included?

24 MR. HARRINGTON: Let me just  
25 interpose an objection, as calling for

1 speculation.

2 Q I don't want you to speculate. I don't mean to  
3 imply I want you to speculate.

4 If you don't remember, that's fine, and if you  
5 do remember, just please tell us what you do  
6 remember.

7 A Give me the question again.

8 Q The question is, do you know whether such a study  
9 actually was or was not done; do you know, one way  
10 or another?

11 A No, I don't.

12 Q Okay; now looking at Exhibit 22, do you have that?

13 Here it is.

14 In your cover letter to Mr. Mercer, you  
15 indicate, "It is possible to reduce the dust  
16 concentration", and you're referring to the Mattison  
17 saw, ". . .by providing an additional hood or  
18 replacing the present hood with a longer one which  
19 would capture the dust particles presently being  
20 thrown toward the feed end by the rotating saw  
21 blade."

22 What was the purpose in including that  
23 statement in your letter?

24 A Well, you have a dust collection system there, and  
25 by modifying, it's like they can make it more

1 efficient, and there would be very little expense  
2 involved, since they have, already have the system.

3 We would routinely make that kind of  
4 suggestion, for any plant, for improving conditions  
5 over what they are, regardless of whether they are  
6 below MAC or not.

7 Q Was it your intention, to suggest by making that  
8 recommendation, that if they didn't do that, they  
9 would somehow have a situation that violated the  
10 maximum allowable concentration?

11 A No.

12 We were just trying to let them get -- raise  
13 the benefit from ventilation control.

14 We are suggesting something that already  
15 existed.

16 Q And looking at Exhibit 23, was it your understanding  
17 that reference to the revision being made to the  
18 Mattison saw, was as a result of your letter of  
19 September 28, 1951?

20 A Yes, I believe that's right.

21 Q Mr. Lea, would you please look at Detjen Exhibit 24,  
22 please.

23 I have it here, in my hand, and I will describe  
24 it and hand it to you.

25 The first page is a copy of an October 18, 1956

1 letter from William L. Lea, Ph.D., to  
2 Mr. G. R. Mercer, Superintendent; attached to the  
3 letter, is a four-page dust study, bearing the date  
4 June 18, 1956.

5 (Witness examines document)

6 Q Does your signature appear on the first page --

7 A Yes.

8 Q Of Exhibit 24?

9 A Yes, it does.

10 Q Is that your signature, or was that signed by  
11 someone else for you?

12 A It was signed by the secretary.

13 Q Who was the secretary?

14 A Her name was Gertrude Stoner.

15 Q Look at the last page of the document.

16 There is a signature line there, and someone  
17 wrote -- well, your name has been written, and there  
18 is a small S below.

19 Do you know, is that also an indication your  
20 secretary signed this?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Was that ordinary practice, if you had worked on a  
23 report or dictated a letter, for you to instruct  
24 your secretary to go ahead and sign it, get it out,  
25 if you were out of the office?

1 A Right.

2 Q And are the documents which comprise Detjen Exhibit  
3 24, true and correct copies of your letter to  
4 Mr. Mercer, and the study that was transmitted with  
5 your letter?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Just so we're clear, you don't have any question  
8 about the authenticity of these documents, do you?

9 A No.

10 Q Now this letter is transmitting another report of a  
11 dust study at the Algoma plant, which took place on  
12 June 18, 1956, correct?

13 A Right.

14 Q Apparently, you left something behind when you were  
15 out at the plant?

16 A Left a piece of equipment, ventilation measuring  
17 equipment.

18 Q Was the equipment that you used in order to do these  
19 dust studies, standard equipment used in the  
20 industrial hygiene field, at the time?

21 A Sure.

22 Q And from time to time, did you receive advice on the  
23 United States Public Health Service, about the type  
24 of equipment you should use?

25 A Right.

1 Q Did they also give you advice regarding the  
2 techniques in regard to dust studies?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Looking at the actual report that is attached to  
5 your October 18, 1956 letter, what were you  
6 measuring out at the plant on this occasion?

7 (Witness examines document)

8 A The first sentence in the second paragraph states,  
9 that it's to measure silica content of air-borne  
10 dust around weldrock operations, and a gross air  
11 sample was taken on the second floor of Plant No. 2,  
12 in the vicinity of the Tenoner.

13 Q Was there also an analysis of how much of the total  
14 dust was asbestos?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And am I correct then, that total dust counts were  
17 done, and then a report was made on how much of the  
18 total dust was either silica or asbestos?

19 A Wait a second.

20 (Witness examines document)

21 A A large enough air sample was taken to get enough  
22 dust particles to be chemically analyzed for free  
23 silica content and asbestos.

24 Q How much of the total dust that was studied and  
25 measured in June of 1956, was free silica?

1 A 5.3 percent.

2 Q And how much of it was asbestos?

3 A 10.3.

4 Q Do I correctly understand then, that 89.7 percent of  
5 the dust at the Algoma plant, as of this date in  
6 1956, was something other than asbestos?

7 A Right.

8 Q Now was the maximum allowable concentration for  
9 asbestos, for pure asbestos, still 5 million  
10 particles per cubic foot of air, as of 1956?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did that standard change at all, at any point in  
13 time, during your employment at the State Board of  
14 Health?

15 A No.

16 It was always 5 million particles per cubic  
17 foot of air.

18 Q During the entire duration of your work at the State  
19 Board of Health, and your membership in the ACGIH,  
20 were you aware of anyone challenging the safety of  
21 the maximum allowable concentration for pure  
22 asbestos?

23 A No.

24 Q During that same period of time, are you aware of  
25 any written literature in the field, which



1 challenged the safety of the maximum allowable  
2 concentration for asbestos?

3 A No.

4 Q Now on the third page of the Exhibit, the second  
5 page of the report, do you report there the total  
6 dust count in millions of particles per cubic foot  
7 of air ---

8 A Right.

9 Q -- at various locations, correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q To give us some idea, we have a reading such as, for  
12 example, No. 9, B. 2, straight line rip saw, feed  
13 end; 1.7 million particles per cubic foot of air.

14 Can you give us some idea of what 1.7 million  
15 particles per cubic foot of air is, by comparing it,  
16 say to the amount of dust in the air, in the average  
17 living room, or something like that?

18 A Well, would be heavy compared to the air in a living  
19 room, for instance.

20 Q Is 1.7 million particles per cubic foot of air, a  
21 dust level that you can see?

22 A You can, if the light conditions are right.

23 Q Like if there's sunlight streaming through the  
24 window, you will be able to see it?

25 A Right.

1 Q Under normal lighting, you might not be able to see  
2 it?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q On the third page of the report, the fourth page of  
5 the Exhibit, under summary, your report states, "From  
6 the results of the analysis of the gross air sample  
7 (Table I) it was decided to use 20 million particles  
8 per cubic foot of air, as the M.A.C. (Maximum  
9 Allowable Concentration) for the air-borne dust in  
10 the vicinity of weldrock operations.

11 Now we have reference to Table 1. This is a  
12 breakdown of free silica and asbestos, correct, that  
13 we just talked about?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And since the dust at the Algoma plant that you  
16 studied, wasn't pure asbestos, did you have to come  
17 up with a maximum allowable concentration for that  
18 total dust mixture?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And the figure for the maximum allowable  
21 concentration for the Algoma dust was 20 million  
22 particles per cubic foot of air, correct; according  
23 to the third page of the report here, right at the  
24 top?

25 (Witness examines document)

1 A Well, at the top there it says, "It was decided to  
2 use 20 million particles per cubic foot of air, as  
3 the M.A.C. for the air-borne dust in the vicinity of  
4 the weldrock operations."

5 I think the calculated value might have been  
6 double that.

7 Q Looking at the third paragraph on that same page, it  
8 says, "By the same token, the M.A.C. value for  
9 asbestos dust is 5 m.p.p.c.f.", and that's million  
10 particles per cubic foot, right?

11 A Right.

12 Q "The analysis shows 10.3% asbestos in the air-borne  
13 dust. An M.A.C. value of 20 m.p.p.c.f. is again on  
14 the conservative side."?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Could you just explain what you're saying there in  
17 the report?

18 (Witness examines document)

19 Q And I guess what I'm specifically asking is, you say  
20 that the MAC of 20 million particles, is again on  
21 the conservative side?

22 A Well, it's based on what I mentioned before, I  
23 think.

24 If you put this percent composition asbestos  
25 in this weldrock dust sampling, you do this

1 mathematical equation, calculate it, you end up with  
2 a value almost double 20 million particles per cubic  
3 foot, that's why I would say it was on the  
4 conservative side, because we're saying, let's use  
5 the maximum concentration here.

6 Q Now if you look at Page 2 of the report, the third  
7 page of the Exhibit, you report the dust -- total  
8 dust counts and I read the highest one was 8.1  
9 million; the lowest was .6 million particles per  
10 cubic foot?

11 A We got 8.1.

12 Q Yeah, I'm sorry; 8.1, is the highest, and .6, is the  
13 lowest.

14 A There's 0.1, for a low one; that's No. 7.

15 Q Oh, I'm sorry; that one looks like an 8, on my  
16 copy, but maybe the copy is --

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Yours, there is a little smudge.

19 This looks like 8.1 million --

20 A Yeah.

21 Q In any event, in your view, did any of those dust  
22 counts exceed the maximum allowable concentration,  
23 the safe limit for exposure to asbestos?

24 A No, because I say, if you calculated with this  
25 particular dust mixture, I'm sure it would end up

1 around 38 million particles per cubic foot of air.

2 All these numbers are well below that.

3 Q And these are total dust, correct?

4 A Right.

5 Q Now even if you had one or more locations that, I  
6 realize it doesn't, in actuality, even if one or  
7 more locations had a level above this conservative  
8 20 million particles per cubic foot of air, the MAC  
9 for the Algoma dust, would not necessarily have  
10 indicated that the maximum allowable  
11 concentrations, or as you put it, the safe level of  
12 exposure had been exceeded?

13 A No, not unless somebody worked there eight hours a  
14 day, day after day; in other words, you have to bring  
15 the time factor in, too.

16 Q Now on the last page of the Exhibit, it's also the  
17 last page of the report, there are some  
18 recommendations, the first one of which, refers to  
19 keeping the local exhaust system maintained in a  
20 manner that maximum efficiency is realized.

21 Were there local exhaust systems, in place, at  
22 the Algoma plant taking dust out of the air?

23 A Oh, yes.

24 Q What kind of exhaust systems did they have?

25 A Well, they're called, local exhaust systems, because

1 you would have a fan which would usually be located  
2 on the inside or outside of the wall, or on an  
3 outside wall, and a metal duct would be connected to  
4 it, and run over to the location that you want dust  
5 control on, and then the duct would be attached to a  
6 hood, which would direct the air flow in such a  
7 manner, that it would draw the dust that was  
8 disbursed into the air, into this local exhaust  
9 system, and transported to the outside.

10 Q So it's kind of like a vacuum cleaner, you hook it  
11 right up to the equipment?

12 A Right; as to a vacuum cleaner, it would be called a  
13 hose.

14 Q At Page 3 of the report, the fourth page of the  
15 Exhibit, under the heading, Local Exhaust  
16 Ventilation Systems, the report states, "Each  
17 machine operating on weldrock is equipped with local  
18 exhaust ventilation hoods of varying design."

19 Based on your inspection of the plant then,  
20 each one of these machines had its own exhaust system  
21 on it, correct?

22 A Well, each one of the machines was connected up to  
23 duct, metal duct work, to hook to the exhaust system.

24 Q You might have one system that had duct work going  
25 out to various locations?

1 A Right.

2 Q All of those drawing the exhaust, the dust, if you  
3 will, up through there and out of the atmosphere?

4 A Right.

5 Q Back to the last page of the report, and the  
6 second recommendation, has to do with the handling  
7 of weldrock panels, as well as scrap handling and  
8 sweeping.

9 You say, "Some consideration should be  
10 given". . . "to keep dust dispersion at a minimum."

11 Are these two recommendations intended, in  
12 anyway, to suggest the maximum allowable  
13 concentration had been exceeded, at any time, to  
14 your knowledge?

15 A No.

16 They are recommendations that -- to minimize  
17 the dust exposure to employees, and they should do  
18 some of these dust disbursing activities, such as  
19 handling of weldrock and panels, or sweeping in a  
20 manner that would minimize the disbursal, because  
21 it's difficult to control sweeping operations with a  
22 local exhaust system.

23 Q Is this kind of like a belt and suspenders  
24 recommendation?

25 A Right; we just think they could improve --

1 improvements you could make, without much to do  
2 about it.

3 Q Now as I understand, the whole purpose of the  
4 Industrial Hygiene Unit was to, as you have  
5 described it, to work at making the workplace in  
6 Wisconsin a safe place, is that correct?

7 A Yes; to evaluate occupational exposures to various  
8 harmful, or potentially harmful air contaminants.

9 Q Was your ultimate goal to keep workers safe?

10 A That's it.

11 Q Did you take your job seriously, Mr. Lea?

12 A Oh, sure.

13 Q Did you work hard at it?

14 A I did.

15 Q Was the Industrial Hygiene Unit of the State Board  
16 of Health, beholding to, or in anyway controlled by  
17 industry or manufacturers?

18 A No.

19 Q Now based on the actual dust studies that were done  
20 at the Algoma plant, that you either directly  
21 participated in, or that you reviewed that were done  
22 by others in your Industrial Hygiene Unit, did you  
23 find any evidence at all that the workers at the  
24 Algoma plant were at risk of developing  
25 asbestos-related disease?



1     **A**     **No.**

2                     MR. RILEY: I have no further  
3                     questions.

4  
5                     EXAMINATION

6     BY MR. HARRINGTON:

7     Q     Mr. Lea, as I understand it from your testimony, the  
8             Department of Health, Industrial Hygiene Unit at the  
9             time you were working in it, and at the time it was  
10            under your leadership, defined a MAC for the Algoma  
11            plant, is that right?

12    A     For this mixed dust.

13    Q     For the dust in the Algoma plant?

14    A     Right.

15    Q     And you told Algoma management what the safe levels  
16            were for that dust in that plant?

17    A     That's correct.

18    Q     Now I also understand from your testimony, that you  
19            didn't have, at that time, prior to OSHA coming in,  
20            any powers to penalize management for failure to  
21            follow these recommendations?

22    A     That's correct.

23    Q     So you were, and your agency, the Department of  
24            Health, Industrial Hygiene Division, were dependent  
25            upon management's cooperation, in implementing these

1 safe levels that you had defined for their  
2 operation?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And if management, through either inadvertence, or  
5 for some other reason, decided not to implement the  
6 MAC that you have defined for it, that  
7 recommendation that was made by your agency, wasn't  
8 much good, was it; it wouldn't do much good if  
9 management wouldn't implement it?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Wouldn't do any good if management wouldn't  
12 implement?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q And to that extent, the safety and health of the  
15 employees in the plant at Algoma, was dependent upon  
16 management fulfilling its responsibilities, and  
17 acting on your recommendations?

18 MR. GONRING: Well, I object as  
19 a leading question.

20 I think you are asking a lot of  
21 leading questions.

22 I'm not sure this witness is adverse  
23 to you.

24 A The regulatory agency of the State, was the  
25 Industrial Commission.

1           They had a code which contain these; it was a  
2           list of these MAC's for various types of air  
3           contaminants, also.

4           Q   So you're talking about, on the state level, the  
5           Industrial Commission would have also been involved  
6           in, in terms of overall responsibility to the  
7           employee?

8           A   Right.

9           Q   Along with management?

10          A   Right.

11          In other words, they have a system of  
12          continuous inspection, or of periodic inspection of  
13          the industrial plant.

14          Q   The code that you were referring to where the MAC's  
15          were published, what was that called in those days,  
16          back in the '40s or '50s?

17          A   Oh, just called Maximum Allowable Concentration.

18          Q   Was that published in the Wisconsin Industrial Code?

19          A   Sure.

20          It would have been called Dust, Fume, Vapors  
21          and Gases, was the title of it.

22          Q   And were the numbers in there, the same MAC's that  
23          were promulgated by the ACGIH?

24          A   Right.

25          I think to avoid reprinting the code, if any

1 changes were made in legislation, just the most  
2 recent list was published by the ACGIH, shall be the  
3 one in effect, yes.

4 Q So to your knowledge and recollection, the ACGIH  
5 standards, were simply adopted under the code?

6 A Right.

7 Q That was a code that regulated the conduct of all of  
8 the employers in the State of Wisconsin?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Including the Algoma Company?

11 A Right.

12 Q The last dust study that you've been shown today  
13 that was done at the Algoma plant, was reflected on  
14 Exhibit No. 24, I believe, and that shows a date, at  
15 least referred to in your letter on the first page,  
16 of June 18, 1956, is that correct?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q To your knowledge, after June 18, 1956, do you have  
19 any specific recollection of any further dust  
20 studies being done at the Algoma facility?

21 A Not to my knowledge.

22 Of course, as I say, I kept devoting more and  
23 more time to radiation control, up until 1966, so --

24 Q But to your knowledge, you don't recall any?

25 A No.

1 Q Under your leadership, sir, had the management at  
2 the Algoma plant, requested continuing dust studies,  
3 such as those which we have reviewed today and were  
4 conducted in the '40s?

5 A '50s.

6 Q '50s; would your Department have complied with the  
7 request?

8 A Oh, certainly.

9 Q You have no recollection, I take it, of ever denying  
10 a request from Algoma management for a dust study at  
11 their plant?

12 A No.

13 Q You say that the Algoma management called you, or  
14 the Department initially, to request that the  
15 studies that were done, be done.

16 This was something that Algoma management  
17 initiated, is that correct?

18 A That's right.

19 Q And Algoma management, at that time, wanted to know  
20 whether the dust in their plant which contained  
21 asbestos fibers, were at reasonably safe levels for  
22 their employees?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Based upon your dealings with the Algoma management,  
25 and the fact that they contacted you, rather than

1 the other way around, for dust studies, specifically  
2 on asbestos fibers, would you consider that Algoma  
3 management was knowledgeable, at the time,  
4 concerning the potential hazards of asbestos fibers  
5 in the air at their plant?

6 MR. GONRING: I object to the  
7 question; lack of foundation.

8 You can go ahead and answer.

9 A Would you restate the question again.

10 MR. HARRINGTON: Why don't you  
11 read it back, let me hear it again, too.  
12 (Last question read back by reporter)

13 MR. GONRING: Same objection.

14 MR. HARRINGTON: Why don't I  
15 rephrase the question, and try to satisfy  
16 the objection.

17 Q What did the fact that Algoma management contacted  
18 your agency, specifically for studies relating to  
19 asbestos fibers, indicate to you, concerning whether  
20 or not Algoma management had some knowledge of  
21 potential health hazards about asbestos fibers?

22 MR. GONRING: Object to the  
23 relevancy of that question.

24 Q You can answer that.

25 A Well, I would say that they had some concern over

1 the dust.

2 Whether they were aware of the various  
3 components of that mixed dust, or whether it had  
4 potential harmful properties, that I wouldn't know,  
5 for sure.

6 Q So you have no knowledge on that subject?

7 A No.

8 Q Sir, do you recall when it was that the first MAC's  
9 for asbestos came out from the ACGIH?

10 A No, I can't remember.

11 Q Can you put it in the framework of whether it was in  
12 the '30s or the '40s?

13 A No.

14 Q All right.

15 Sir, you indicated that while at the Department  
16 of Public Health, Industrial Hygiene Division, your  
17 duties included review of literature concerning  
18 various potentially hazardous substances and  
19 studies regarding them?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Do you recall reading literature concerning the  
22 disease, asbestosis?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did that occur -- or why don't you tell me when the  
25 first time you can recall reading that literature

1 about asbestosis?

2 A Would have been late '40s, perhaps.

3 Q Do you recall a gentleman by the name of Dr. Saler?

4 A Yes, sure.

5 Q -- from the Public Health --

6 A Yes.

7 Q He is on the federal level?

8 A Right.

9 Q And Dr. Dressen; do you recall him?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Do you recall that those gentlemen wrote some papers  
12 concerning studies of asbestosis in certain  
13 industries?

14 A No, I can't remember.

15 Q You don't have any recollection now?

16 A No.

17 Q But generally, you do recall reading of asbestosis  
18 in the '40s?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And --

21 A I think there was a Dr. Sanders, in Milwaukee, that  
22 probably did most of the lung studies on silicosis  
23 or asbestosis, if there were some.

24 He was a chest specialist.

25 Q Was he connected with the State, in any way?



1 A No.

2 Q Just a private practitioner of medicine?

3 A Right.

4 I think he may have done -- in other words, a  
5 lot of these exposures were also found by X-ray,  
6 and I think that is really why he was concerned.

7 He would be employed by the management of the  
8 plant to read the X-rays of employees that had  
9 exposures.

10 Q His name was what, again?

11 A Sanders.

12 Q Returning once again to reading about asbestosis,  
13 would your --

14 MR. HARRINGTON: Strike that.

15 Q Would the materials that you would have read  
16 concerning the disease asbestosis, have been from  
17 the publications which you identified earlier in  
18 your deposition?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q The general Industrial Hygiene trade publications?

21 A Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, was the name of  
22 the journal.

23 Q Department of Public Health journals or literature?

24 A Right.

25 Q This was generally available in the profession, at

1 the time?

2 A Right.

3 MR. HARRINGTON: Someone else can  
4 take over, while I look at my notes.

5 MR. PARLEE: No questions.

6 MR. FESSLER: No questions.

7 MR. GONRING: I've got a couple.

8

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. GONRING:

11 Q Mr. Lea, I might have missed this, forgive me if I  
12 did, but did you actually go to the Algoma plant --

13 A Oh, yes.

14 Q -- in connection with both of these studies that we  
15 saw today, Exhibit 24, the weldrock study and the  
16 Kaylo study in 1951?

17 A What was the first one you mentioned there?

18 Q The first one is the 1956 study on weldrock dust,  
19 which I think is Exhibit 24.

20 A That one was done by Mr. Otterson and Mr. Poppe.

21 I imagine I'm there, too.

22 MR. RILEY: Do you want to  
23 correct that?

24 Q Is it your recollection that you did go up there, to  
25 the Algoma plant, for the weldrock studies?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q And on Exhibit 22, the Kaylo dust survey and dust  
3 counts, did you go up to Algoma on that particular  
4 project?

5 (Witness examines document)

6 A It doesn't appear that I did, because my signature  
7 doesn't appear at the end of the report.

8 Q So that would be a case where you just reviewed what  
9 someone else had done, and sent the material on,  
10 under your signature, to the company involved?

11 A That's the one that was done by Walter Poppe and  
12 Edward Otterson.

13 Q So you would review what Mr. Poppe and Mr. Otterson  
14 did, review their reports, and send the material  
15 under your signature then, to the company?

16 A Yes, I may have counted some of the dust samples,  
17 but --

18 Q Do you remember doing that in this particular case?

19 A That's too far back.

20 Q That's a long time ago.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q I think you said that there was one other company in  
23 Wisconsin, in which the Unit -- when you were  
24 involved with the Unit, studied asbestos, and that  
25 was in Two Rivers?

1 A Right.

2 Q Do you remember when those studies or study were  
3 done?

4 A I think it would have been in the late '50s.

5 Q And do you remember in connection with the Two  
6 Rivers studies, whether the management of the Two  
7 Rivers company asked you to come up there and look  
8 at the operation?

9 A Yeah, except I think the individual management group,  
10 would be the Safety Director.

11 A lot of your industrial plants, then and  
12 today, have Safety Directors, which are responsible  
13 for health problems, as well as physical safety.

14 Q It's your recollection that in the Two Rivers plant,  
15 the Safety Director asked your Unit to come up  
16 there?

17 A Right.

18 Q Do you remember yourself going up to the Two Rivers  
19 plant?

20 A Oh, sure.

21 Q What was the name of that company, by the way?

22 A Hamilton.

23 They make chemicals -- a line of chemical  
24 laboratory furniture, and I think some of the  
25 exhaust hoods for chemistry labs, they would use

1 sort of transit, or fire-resistant material for the  
2 interior of the hood, so they would have fabricating  
3 operations in there, such as sawing or drilling.

4 Q If I can direct your attention again to Exhibit 24;  
5 the cover letter for that is October 18, 1956.

6 Do you have it there?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q And Page 3 of that report, the third paragraph,  
9 fourth paragraph --

10 A All right.

11 Q It's noted in that paragraph, isn't it, that "It  
12 should be remembered, however, that this study was  
13 made under summer conditions. When natural  
14 ventilation is at a minimum, an occasional operation  
15 will tend to produce atmospheric dust concentrations  
16 which are above the 20 m.p.p.c.f. threshold limit.",  
17 correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you remember if your Unit ever went through and  
20 did a dust concentration study of weldrock in the  
21 wintertime?

22 A Well, I couldn't say for sure, at this date.

23 Q Do you feel that would have made a difference in the  
24 dust concentration?

25 A The thing that I'm looking at here, we see, when

1 natural ventilation is at a minimum.

2 I think in the summer, it would be maximum.

3 Q So you say, that in the summertime, the levels would  
4 be lower than in the wintertime?

5 A Right.

6 You would have some natural ventilation, in  
7 addition to the local exhaust ventilation.

8 Q To move the particles out of the building?

9 A Right.

10 Q But you don't recall if you ever went up there in  
11 the wintertime, subsequent to this study, to study  
12 the dust concentrations?

13 A No.

14 This one is October --

15 Q Let me interrupt you for a second.

16 Is this sentence then on Page 3, paragraph 4,  
17 incorrect; that "When natural ventilation is at a  
18 minimum, an occasional operation will produce  
19 atmospheric dust concentrations above the threshold  
20 limit."?

21 A Oh, I think I see why that's there.

22 We're tying that sentence, when natural  
23 ventilation is at a minimum, with the previous  
24 sentence, and I guess that's what you can't do; just  
25 the last sentence there, by itself, and when natural

1 ventilation is at a minimum, which would be winter,  
2 an occasional operation will tend to produce  
3 atmospheric dust concentrations which are above 20  
4 m.p.p.c.f.; this is a 1956 date.

5 Do you see what I mean there?

6 If you tie the sentence, when natural  
7 ventilation is at a minimum, to the previous one, it  
8 sounds like you mean, maximum; like you're talking  
9 about summer in the previous sentence.

10 Q And you're saying, that's not the case?

11 A I think that sentence, all by itself -- we're  
12 saying, whatever time the air, natural ventilation  
13 is at a minimum, that occasional operation will tend  
14 to produce atmospheric concentrations which are  
15 above.

16 Q When would natural ventilation be at a minimum?

17 A In the winter.

18 Q Now these maximum allowable concentrations that  
19 we've talked about today, did you, yourself, have  
20 any part, in your work with ACGIH or in your work  
21 for the State of Wisconsin, in setting these  
22 standards?

23 A No, except the annual meeting; in other words, the  
24 annual meeting I mentioned before, I think I  
25 mentioned before, we had annual meetings, sponsored

1 by the ACGIH, all the Directors and some of the  
2 engineers that -- of various State Industrial  
3 Hygiene Units, went to the annual meeting, which was  
4 where -- the program was partly seminars and a  
5 chance to exchange information with other people, in  
6 the same field as you are.

7 Q Do you recall discussing at these annual meetings,  
8 the maximum allowable concentration for asbestos?

9 A No.

10 Q Do you remember that ever being discussed at any  
11 presentation there?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you remember the asbestos mining companies or the  
14 companies that manufactured asbestos products, ever  
15 appearing at these manual meetings, and discussing  
16 maximum allowable concentrations?

17 A No.

18 Q Did you, yourself, ever talk to anyone, a  
19 representative of an asbestos mining company, or a  
20 company that produced asbestos products, about the  
21 maximum allowable concentrations?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you ever receive any information of any kind,  
24 from an asbestos mining company or company that  
25 produced asbestos products, about safe levels of



1 asbestos exposure in the industrial workplace?

2 MR. HARRINGTON: Object to the  
3 form of the question as vague and  
4 ambiguous.

5 MR. RILEY: I'll join in that  
6 objection.

7 Q What is your answer?

8 A No.

9 Q This standard that we have discussed, the pure  
10 asbestos standard, do you know what I'm referring  
11 to, when I'm talking about that?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Was that -- was it written somewhere to tell you to  
14 apply that standard when determining the maximum  
15 allowable concentration of asbestos in a workplace?

16 MR. RILEY: I object to the form  
17 of the question.

18 I think that's a little confusing.

19 Do you understand the question?

20 A You mean, was it written that you should apply --

21 Q Let me ask it this way.

22 How did you know to apply a pure asbestos  
23 standard, as opposed, for instance, to a standard  
24 that says, if there is asbestos in the product, then  
25 the maximum allowable concentration is fine?

1 A Well, by the nature of the dust, this -- like in  
2 this case, you collect what is called gross test  
3 dust sample and have it analyzed, otherwise, your  
4 operations are such that you know that there's only  
5 one type of dust particle being disseminated from  
6 the nature of the operation.

7 Q What was that; was that a guideline written down  
8 somewhere, to tell you to do that?

9 A No.

10 Q In other words, it was your, and your Unit's  
11 interpretation, of the maximum allowable  
12 concentration and how to apply it?

13 A The 5 million particles per cubic foot of air, was  
14 applied to dust counts where the only dust particles  
15 in this plant are asbestos.

16 Q And that again, was your interpretation of how that  
17 was supposed to be done?

18 A That's right.

19 Q Did the ACGIH, in any written material, tell you to  
20 apply it that way?

21 A Well, I think they in effect did, because they told  
22 you when not to apply it, when it was a mixture.

23 Q And they told you that in some publication?

24 A Well, that would be -- yeah, they print or give you  
25 the equation for calculating the MAC for a mixed

1 dust.

2 In fact, if you looked at the code that -- the  
3 Wisconsin Industrial Commission Code, when they had  
4 this dust and gases and vapor codes, that equation  
5 was given at the bottom of the table on the MAC's.

6 Q What was the publication that the ACGIH told you to  
7 do that; what was the name of that publication?

8 A Well, I think it was just called, Maximum Allowable  
9 Limits.

10 Q It was a brochure of some sort, or some guideline of  
11 some sort?

12 A It may have even been in the manual of Industrial  
13 Hygiene.

14 Q And you also said that the Industrial Code,  
15 contained that same sort of formula?

16 A Sure.

17 Q Would you, as a state employee, ever have  
18 interpreted the maximum allowable concentration, in  
19 anyway, that was not in the Industrial Code or the  
20 ACGIH?

21 MR. RILEY: I'm going to object  
22 to the form, as vague and ambiguous; it's  
23 hypothetical, and calls for speculation.

24 Q Do you understand the question?

25 A Could you repeat it.

1 Q Sure, and I'll even change it, to avoid the same  
2 objection.

3 Were you bound by, for instance, the formula in  
4 the Industrial Code and the formula that the ACGIH  
5 told you to use?

6 MR. RILEY: I'm going to object  
7 to the form of the question.

8 I think it's vague and ambiguous,  
9 particularly to, what you mean by, bound,  
10 but in other respects, as well, but that  
11 doesn't mean you don't answer over the  
12 objection, if you can.

13 A Nope, we weren't bound to use it.

14 Q You could have ignored that formula, and used some  
15 other kind of formula?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Do you remember ever doing that in any circumstance  
18 involving any type of product of any sort in the  
19 industrial environment?

20 MR. RILEY: At this point, I'm  
21 going to object --

22 MR. GONRING: What do you mean,  
23 at this point?

24 You have, for the last three questions.

25 MR. RILEY: Not the last one.

1 I'm going to object to the form of the  
2 question. I think it's really now, very  
3 vague and ambiguous; calls for a lot of  
4 speculation, as to what you mean by your  
5 terminology.

6 Moreover, there's no indication  
7 here as to whether you're talking about a  
8 particular mixed dust, with no percentage  
9 of concentration given, the substance;  
10 whether you are talking about all of them,  
11 or if they all have precisely the same  
12 formula.

13 I don't think it's a fair question.

14 MR. HARRINGTON: There's no  
15 indication he's even talking about dust.

16 Q Did you understand my question?

17 Do you even remember it?

18 A I think I do, and I was going to say, the only time  
19 something like that came up, that I can remember of,  
20 didn't have to do with dust; that had to do with  
21 solvents.

22 Q But you can't remember a situation where your Unit,  
23 in a dust situation, ignored what ACGIH told you to  
24 do, or what the Industrial Code told you to do, in  
25 figuring out the maximum allowable concentrations?

1 MR. RILEY: Object to the form  
2 of the question.

3 A No.

4 As I say, I don't remember anything connected  
5 with dust.

6 All I can remember is, one instance where -- I  
7 don't know if this is what you want to get at, but  
8 when you're dealing with mixtures, both of these  
9 individual components, let's say a mixture of two  
10 things, keep it simple, when you have an MAC of --  
11 it's one, and the idea is, that you couldn't have  
12 two things present; each has it's own MAC.

13 Do you see what I mean? In other words, one  
14 MAC was a mixture; you could have safe conditions.  
15 You couldn't have -- let's say you had 98  
16 percent MAC of one component, and 98 the other,  
17 together, you might have -- say you had 1.8 times  
18 the MAC for -- allowing for a mixture, which  
19 wouldn't be right.

20 I can remember having to compute one for  
21 solvents, vapors, like that.

22 Q Did the Industrial Code also tell you to use this  
23 notion of time weighted average?

24 A No, because that's sort of implicit in the concept  
25 of MAC.

1           The MAC, you know, is something that a person  
2           could be exposed to 8 hours a day, day after day,  
3           continuously, without any effect.

4           Q     Is that a definition written down somewhere?

5           A     I don't know, but it certainly is a universal one;  
6           it's used that way.

7           Q     By ACGIH?

8           A     Well, not them specifically, but people working in  
9           the field of Industrial Hygiene, generally.

10          Q     Is that a directly proportional thing; in other  
11          words, if the maximum allowable concentration for an  
12          8 hour day is 40, if someone works one hour, is it  
13          320?

14          A     Well, unless there is some acute effects, with a  
15          higher concentration.

16                 You might pick out something like ammonia; now  
17          that, in the MAC, might not be irritating enough to  
18          be objectionable. If you were exposed to this  
19          ammonia in the time intervals that you made today,  
20          you might end up with a concentration of ammonia in  
21          the air, so strong, that it would be highly  
22          irritating, or manifest itself in some respect, that  
23          it wouldn't be acceptable.

24          Q     What about asbestos; using my example and applying  
25          it to asbestos, is that a valid statement I made,

1 would it be 320 for one hour, if 40 was the maximum  
2 allowable concentration?

3 A Well, you got the hour in there, but this also  
4 involves five days in a week, week after week, so  
5 forth, too.

6 Q Tell me how the days of the week come into this  
7 computation?

8 Let's say you have -- let's say the MAC is 40,  
9 for asbestos, in a particular working environment,  
10 and let's say that person works in that area one day  
11 a week, 8 hours a day.

12 Is it a proportional calculation, to figure  
13 out what his maximum allowable concentration is?

14 MR. RILEY: Excuse me.

15 I think the question is maybe a little  
16 vague; although, maybe not intentional.

17 Are you talking about the MAC for  
18 asbestos, in the question, or are you  
19 talking about mixed dust in your question,  
20 because you are talking about 40 being the  
21 MAC for asbestos, when he testified, it  
22 depends on the proportion of asbestos in  
23 the environment.

24 I'm confused.

25 MR. GONRING: If it's confusing,



1 I apologize.

2 Q Let's say we're talking about, to bring it more into  
3 line, let's say we're talking about maximum  
4 allowable concentrations for asbestos; let's say 5  
5 is for an 8 hour day, five days a week.

6 Is it a simple mathematical computation, to  
7 figure out what the maximum allowable concentration  
8 for a person who works 8 hours a day, one day a  
9 week, in that area?

10 A Well, you have to introduce one more factor.

11 You have to be working with the same amount of  
12 physical exertion; in other words, his air intake is --

13 Q Let's assume the same amount of physical exertion.

14 A Well, then you could almost apply it that way.

15 Q So you would multiply it by five, and say his  
16 maximum allowable concentration would be 25, or  
17 would it be 20, because he's not working there four  
18 days?

19 A Well, the question -- you have to assume some  
20 substance; that would be the procedure you employ,  
21 but that question is hard to answer.

22 Q What about asbestos?

23 A Well, let's pick -- if you went to silica, for  
24 instance, now because, you know, you can -- you're  
25 sure of what the effect is, but supposedly this is

1 cutting and scarring of the deep lung tissue, and  
2 that, you know, would be related to how many  
3 particles you had in there of free silica.

4 That kind of a substance, you could do what  
5 you're talking about. You could, for a short  
6 exposure, you get in so many particles which could  
7 do the cutting.

8 Q Is asbestos that type of substance?

9 A I don't know; they used to consider asbestos as  
10 being somewhat similar in its action to free silica,  
11 because when it's diagnosed on X-rays, they would be  
12 looking for development of tissue, scar tissue in  
13 the lung tissue.

14 Q When say they used to, are you saying they don't  
15 consider it that way, anymore?

16 A What did I say?

17 Q You say, they used to consider it like silica.

18 A Asbestos, I don't know.

19 I haven't read anything on it, for a long time.

20 Q Well, based on what you know and from your  
21 experience, are you saying that the simple  
22 mathematical computation that I referred to, would  
23 not work with asbestos?

24 A If its action was similar to silica, it would.

25 Q And if it's not, it wouldn't?

1 A No, because sometimes you might -- let's say there's  
2 dust, was some kind of an allergen, where the amount  
3 of the allergen in there, probably is not important,  
4 as far as the end result, the reaction to it.

5 A smaller amount might produce the same amount  
6 as a larger amount.

7 It gets complicated, depending on -- depends  
8 also on the nature of the air contaminant you're  
9 talking about, and its reaction with the body.

10 Q So that in some instances, to sum all this up, a  
11 simple mathematical computation wouldn't work?

12 A That's right.

13 Q And that a smaller, or a shorter period of exposure,  
14 would not necessarily make the maximum allowable  
15 concentration proportionately higher?

16 MR. RILEY: I'm going to object  
17 to the question, at this point, as vague  
18 and ambiguous.

19 There is no reference in there to  
20 asbestos.

21 I think the witness indicated, he  
22 can't answer with respect to asbestos and  
23 I can't see how it possibly has anything  
24 to do with this case.

25 It is hypothetical, with no link to

1 anything we can understand, to this case.

2 Q Do you remember the question, after that soliloquy?

3 A No.

4 Q I'll repeat it.

5 You said that for some substances, a simple  
6 mathematical computation wouldn't work, because of  
7 the nature of the substance, and my question was,  
8 that means that for instance, a shorter period of  
9 exposure to a substance, let's say, 8 hours a day,  
10 for one day, instead of five days, would not  
11 necessarily, proportionately, raise the maximum  
12 allowable concentration, depending upon the  
13 substance?

14 MR. RILEY: Same objection.

15 A I say, the substance has got a lot to do with it.

16 Q So the answer is, yes?

17 MR. RILEY: Same objection.

18 MR. HARRINGTON: I'm going to object  
19 to that.

20 I don't think that's what the answer is.

21 MR. GONRING: Let's over it all,  
22 again.

23 Q You've told me that the substance has a lot to do  
24 with the maximum allowable concentration, and  
25 whether a simple mathematical computation would work,

1 as I have laid it out here, correct?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q So that in some instances, a person who, depending  
4 upon the substance, a person who works one day a  
5 week, 8 hours a day, in the same area, as a person  
6 who works there 8 hours a day, for five days a week,  
7 for the person who works there one day a week, that  
8 the maximum allowable concentration is not  
9 necessarily going to be four or five times what it  
10 is for the person who works there five days a week?

11 MR. RILEY: Same objection.

12 MR. HARRINGTON: I'll join in the  
13 objection.

14 A Because some substances, there, could be a  
15 different physiological response to an acute  
16 concentration, than would be to a more moderate one.

17 Q So it would not be necessarily four or five times?

18 MR. RILEY: Same objection.

19 Q Correct?

20 MR. HARRINGTON: I'll join in  
21 the objection.

22 A Depending on, as I say, on the substance that we're  
23 considering.

24 Q What type of consulting work have you done, Mr. Lea,  
25 since you retired?

1           To make it easier; you testified that you have  
2           consulted for, I think you said Wisconsin companies  
3           since you retired, doing what sort of work?

4           A     Tire manufacturer, rubber tires.

5           Q     What was that; what was the nature of your work;  
6           what did you do for these people?

7           A     Trying to find out what the causative agent was in  
8           their problem.

9                     They were dealing with complex mixtures, you  
10           know.

11          Q     When you say a problem, you mean a problem that  
12           their workers were having?

13          A     Right.

14          Q     Has any of this consulting work involved asbestos?

15          A     No.

16          Q     You told Mr. Harrington that you had seen some  
17           literature about asbestosis.

18                     I'm sorry, I don't have the date. I think you  
19           said in the '40s.

20                     Do you remember what that literature said, in  
21           terms of, if at all, in terms of the likelihood of  
22           asbestosis, in particular, in the work environment?

23          A     No.

24                     I think it was more on the nature of lung  
25           tissue changes.

1 Q It wasn't in terms of exposure to certain  
2 substances that would cause one to get asbestosis?

3 A No.

4 Q Did you -- do you remember ever reading any  
5 literature in which the subject was discussed of  
6 exposure to certain substances that would cause one  
7 to get asbestosis, or any other asbestos-related  
8 disease?

9 MR. RILEY: By exposure, are you  
10 talking about levels of exposure?

11 MR. GONRING: I'm talking about  
12 working around substances.

13 MR. HARRINGTON: May I hear the  
14 question again, please.

15 (Last question read back by reporter)

16 MR. HARRINGTON: Let me just lodge  
17 an objection, before you answer, as to the  
18 question being vague and ambiguous, as to  
19 what is meant by literature.

20 MR. GONRING: The printing on the  
21 paper, of any sort.

22 MR. HARRINGTON: You're including  
23 any -- the MAC's published by the AGICH?

24 THE WITNESS: ACGIH.

25 MR. HARRINGTON: You are talking

1                   about any piece of paper that he ever looked  
2                   at?

3                   That's why it's ambiguous.

4                   MR. GONRING: It might have been  
5                   ambiguous to you. I doubt if it was to him.

6       Q       Did you ever read any articles that dealt with  
7               exposure to asbestos substances, and diseases that  
8               might be caused by that exposure?

9       A       No.

10               I think the articles I would have read, related  
11               to exposure to asbestos, not some material  
12               containing it.

13       Q       But you did read articles concerning exposures to  
14               asbestos?

15       A       Yeah.

16       Q       Do you remember what articles you read?

17       A       No, but they would have been, as I say, in the  
18               Industrial Hygiene Toxicology Journal; more apt to  
19               be just something which asbestos was the only thing  
20               involved, such as insulation, using either asbestos  
21               fibers or sheet, woolen sheets.

22                   (Short break taken)

23                   CONTINUED EXAMINATION

24       BY MR. GONRING:

25       Q       Mr. Lea, the fellow that you were talking about,



1 Dr. Sanders; would that be O. A. Sander?

2 A That's right.

3 Q Before this deposition today, did you talk to  
4 Mr. Riley, or anybody from his firm?

5 A Yeah, when he asked about taking this deposition.

6 Q When was that conversation?

7 A Oh, maybe about three weeks ago.

8 Q Is that the first time you had talked to anyone in  
9 connection with this case?

10 Do you understand?

11 A Oh, yeah; I was reading part of that.

12 Q Had you ever -- before someone called you to discuss  
13 the deposition in this case, having your deposition  
14 taken in this case, had you talked about this case,  
15 at any point before, with anyone?

16 A Mr. Riley asked me if I was familiar with this  
17 plant, but I told him, that's a long ways back.

18 Q He asked you that when he talked to you about having  
19 your deposition taken?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Had you met with him or anybody else concerning this  
22 case, or talked to anyone, over the telephone,  
23 concerning this case before that conversation?

24 A Well, that was what, two weeks before we talked  
25 about the taking the deposition.

1 Q So you had talked to Mr. Riley?

2 A That would be about six weeks.

3 Q And was that the first time you had talked to anyone  
4 about this case?

5 A Um-hum.

6 Q And what did you and Mr. Riley discuss the first  
7 time that you talked to him about six weeks ago?

8 A About this, this report study made on June 18, 1956.

9 Q Did you meet with him prior to the taking of this  
10 deposition, to discuss what questions you would be  
11 asked at the deposition?

12 A No.

13 Q Was today, when Mr. Riley was asking you questions,  
14 the first time you had heard those questions?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Besides the phone, I assume the phone conversation  
17 three weeks ago and six weeks ago, had you had any  
18 other contact concerning this case before today?

19 A No.

20 MR. CONRING: I have nothing  
21 further.

22 MR. RILEY: Anybody else?

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Just a couple.

24 EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. HARRINGTON:

1 Q Mr. Lea, when you did the dust study at the Algoma  
2 plant, were those dust collection systems that you  
3 described on the equipment functioning, were they  
4 working?

5 A Oh, sure.

6 Q Do you have any knowledge -- do you have reason to  
7 believe that, for any of the dust studies at that  
8 plant, the dust collection systems were not working?

9 A No.

10 MR. HARRINGTON: All right;  
11 that's all I have.

12 MR. RILEY: Okay.

13 I have got just a couple questions, and  
14 we're finished.

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. RILEY:

17 Q Mr. Harrington asked you questions about literature  
18 and Mr. Gonring did too, about reading literature  
19 mentioning asbestosis.

20 Did anything that you read on that subject,  
21 suggest in any way, that the maximum allowable  
22 concentration for asbestos was not the safe level of  
23 exposure?

24 A No.

25 Q Anything in those articles challenge that?

1 A No.

2 Q Mr. Gonring asked you about Exhibit 24; that's this  
3 1956 report.

4 He directed your attention to a sentence about  
5 the absence of natural ventilation which might  
6 cause, and the words, "occasional operation to  
7 produce atmospheric concentration above 20 million  
8 particles", and he asked you whether there was any  
9 such study, and you don't -- told him you don't --  
10 didn't know whether there was or wasn't.

11 If there were studies at Algoma, which showed  
12 an occasional operation, in the wintertime or other-  
13 wise, an occasional operation where the total dust  
14 level was in excess of 20 million particles, would  
15 that necessarily mean, the maximum allowable  
16 concentration had been exceeded?

17 A No.

18 Q Is that the time weighted aspect, again?

19 A Right.

20 Q And if this occasional instance was a rare one, and  
21 the amount of time the worker would be exposed to  
22 it, in a day, would be below that, would that  
23 suggest the maximum allowable concentration was not  
24 exceeded?

25 A Right.

1 Q Mr. Gorring asked you questions about whether any  
2 manufacturer or miner told you -- gave you any  
3 information about asbestos or maximum allowable  
4 concentration, and I want to ask you this question.

5 If you had been told that the Kaylo product  
6 that was studied by your Unit at Algoma was the  
7 subject of animal experiments, where rats and  
8 hamsters and guinea pigs were exposed to massive  
9 amounts of, amounts approaching 100 million  
10 particles per cubic foot of air, 24 hours a day, for  
11 the life time of the animals, and that those  
12 animals, when examined, showed evidence of -- some  
13 of them showed evidence of fibrosis, similar to  
14 asbestosis, if you had been given that information  
15 at the time you were doing your work at the Algoma  
16 plant, would that have changed, in anyway, the test  
17 that you did, or the conclusions that you drew, with  
18 respect to the safety of the plant?

19 A No.

20 MR. GORRING: Object to the  
21 question; hypothetical and calls for a  
22 speculative answer.

23 Q You can answer.

24 A I said, no.

25 Q Why not?

1 MR. GONRING: Object to the  
2 question, on the same grounds.

3 Q Go ahead.

4 A Well, we're back, sort of, to the previous problem,  
5 with high exposure for short durations, being  
6 numerically equivalent to low exposure, for a long  
7 time.

8 As I say, sometimes that doesn't work.

9 Q And in the context of the Kaylo product, if animal  
10 experiments involved exposure levels, way above the  
11 maximum allowable concentration for the life time of  
12 the animals, would that, in any way, change your  
13 analysis of the maximum allowable concentration, or  
14 the conclusions that you drew about the safety of  
15 the Algoma plant?

16 A No.

17 MR. GONRING: Same objection.

18 MR. RILEY: No further questions.

19 MR. GONRING: One more.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. GONRING:

22 Q Did you ever go to the Algoma plant to see the Kaylo  
23 product, Mr. Lea?

24 A Well, sure; we saw it when we were there.

25 Q When you saw it, when you were there, you,

1 personally?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q In 1956, in Exhibit 4, you saw it?

4 MR. HARRINGTON: That's not  
5 Exhibit 4.

6 Q I'm sorry; Exhibit 24.

7 (Witness examines document)

8 Q Is your answer to my last question, yes?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q That was when you did the dust study on the weldrock  
11 dust concentrations?

12 A Yes.

13 MR. RILEY: Well, I have a couple,  
14 to follow that up.

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. RILEY:

17 Q I don't know if I understand the last couple of  
18 questions, but this says, this meaning Detjen  
19 Exhibit 24, refers to weldrock, whereas the prior  
20 Exhibit refers to Kaylo.

21 A Oh.

22 Q Now do you know whether or not there was a change  
23 from Kaylo to weldrock, at some point in time, in  
24 the early '50s?

25 A No.

1 Q All you know --

2 A I didn't understand his -- that specifically  
3 indicated in his question.

4 I just thought material fabricating.

5 Q When you say you believe you saw Kaylo in 1956, are  
6 you just referring to material, as opposed to  
7 specific brand names?

8 A Right.

9 Q So you could you have been examining weldrock, as  
10 well as Kaylo?

11 A Yes.

12 MR. HARRINGTON: I object to the  
13 form of the question.

14 Q In any event, this refers to a weldrock dust study?

15 A Right.

16 Q And does not refer to Kaylo.

17 You can take a look at that; I don't believe it  
18 does.

19 MR. GONRING: I'll stipulate it  
20 doesn't, to speed this along.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: I just have one  
22 more question.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HARRINGTON:

25 Q If the exhaust fans at the plant weren't working,



1           what would you expect would happen to the dust  
2           levels; would they go higher or lower?

3           A    Go higher.

4           Q    And that could result in a situation which could  
5           exceed the MAC?

6                       MR. GOWRING: I object to the form  
7           of the question.

8           Q    You can --

9                       MR. RILEY: Wait a minute.

10                      That's hypothetical, asking him for  
11           speculation.

12                      You're not setting forth sufficient  
13           facts for any kind of a clear and  
14           understandable answer.

15                      I object to the form of that question;  
16           what operation are you talking about; what --  
17           under what circumstances, what duration of  
18           time.

19                      That's not fair.

20           Q    If the exhaust systems weren't working to the saws  
21           or to the sanders, and dust levels, for any reason,  
22           because of maintenance problems or whatever it may  
23           be, they were just turned off, could that result in  
24           dust levels which could exceed the MAC?

25                      MR. RILEY: Same objection.

1 That's a different question, and it's  
2 wrong and I'm objecting, for a different  
3 reason.

4 I mean, first of all, the man has  
5 said -- there's no foundation for it.

6 He said the exhaust equipment was  
7 working, when he did the test. He didn't  
8 say he had done any test when the exhaust  
9 wasn't working.

10 You are asking him to speculate about  
11 dust; that obviously calls for a  
12 speculation.

13 Q You can answer.

14 Do you remember the question?

15 A I think my answer the first time was, the dust  
16 concentration would increase particles, for sure.

17 How big an increase would be --

18 Q You don't know, because you didn't measure it,  
19 correct?

20 A Right.

21 Q And that's the same with all of your testimony; you  
22 only know what the levels were on the dates that you  
23 measured, is that right?

24 A Right.

25 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

1 MR. RILEY: Mr. Lea, you have the  
2 right to review this transcript, to make sure  
3 this professional court reporter has  
4 transcribed, accurately, what you said.

5 You can also waive the right to review  
6 and sign the transcript, if you trust her  
7 to accurately write down what you did say,  
8 and that's totally up to you.

9 THE WITNESS: Well, I think she's  
10 got it down, right.

11 MR. RILEY: Signature is waived.

12  
13  
14 (Proceedings were concluded at 5:10 o'clock p.m.)  
15  
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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
2 ) ss.  
3 COUNTY OF DANE )

4 I, KAREN M. IORDACHESCU, Shorthand Reporter and  
5 and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do  
6 hereby certify that the foregoing is a true record of  
7 the deposition of WILLIAM L. LEA, who was first duly  
8 sworn by me; having been taken on the 16th day of  
9 October, 1985, at the home of the witness, 5222  
10 Hammersley Road, Madison, in said County and State,  
11 in my presence, and reduced to writing in accordance  
12 with my stenographic notes made at said time and place.

13 I further certify that I am not a relative  
14 or employee or attorney or counsel for any of the  
15 parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney  
16 or counsel, or financially interested in said action.

17 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my  
18 hand and affixed my seal of office this 18th day of  
19 October, 1985.

20  
21  
22 Registered Professional Reporter  
23 Notary Public, State of Wisconsin  
24  
25